

MEETING NOTES

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, central Oregon coast

Local Work Group meeting

Date: January 19th, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council office

801 SW Highway 101, Lincoln City

The meeting began at 1:00pm

This is the joint meeting of the technical teams of the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council and the MidCoast Watersheds Council, which incorporated the local work group meeting.

Attendees were welcomed; the purpose of the meeting was stated and attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

NRCS local work group was the first agenda item.

Kate Danks(NRCS) provided a review of the current priority areas for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Lincoln and Siuslaw) and the NRCS on the central coast. The focus areas for project implementation are currently the Siltcoos Tahkenitch watershed (western Lane County), and the Big Elk watershed (farm and nonindustrial private forestland) and the nonindustrial private and Tribal forestlands in the Siletz/Yaquina(north of Hwy 20) watershed in Lincoln County.

Following a short review, open floor discussion of priority areas and natural resource concerns challenging the central coast. Main points voiced during the discussion were:

- wetlands – potential for conservation easements in areas most susceptible to expected sea level rise
- NRCS Plant Materials Center may be able to provide information to the on the suitability of different plans species in restoration projects
- potential for NRCS to engage landowners in the upper Yaquina watershed following implementation of a MidCoast Watersheds Council restoration project
- the watershed councils are party to a Memorandum of Understanding (draft) with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service; Josh Murphy (SDCWC) invited NRCS to participate also
- potential to reach out to Yachats area landowners for NRCS programs
- Josh requested information on forest management plans, technical service providers, consultants, plan templates for landowners use
- Heather Medina Saucedo (NRCS) provided announcements regarding the NRCS programs: High Tunnel Initiative, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The meeting continued with Watershed Council discussion (see agenda) and adjourned at 3:30pm